

Week Ending Friday, March 5, 2004

The President's Radio Address

February 28, 2004

Good morning. For many years, illegal drug use has been a serious problem facing our country. Drugs cost people their savings and their health and rob children of their promise. My administration has taken action to confront this danger. We have pursued an ambitious, focused strategy to cut demand for drugs at home, interdict supplies of drugs abroad, and treat more addicts who seek help.

In 2002, I set a goal to reduce illegal drug use by 10 percent over 2 years and by 25 percent over 5 years. This Monday we will release the annual National Drug Control Strategy, which shows the impressive progress we have made. Youth drug use declined 11 percent between 2001 and 2003, meaning 400,000 fewer young people used drugs. These results exceeded our goal and proved that our hard work is paying off.

This year, we will expand our strategy so that we can make even greater progress in the fight against drugs. The best way to cut drug use is to cut demand for drugs at the ground level. So my budget includes a \$10-million increase for drug-free communities, a commonsense prevention program that supports local coalitions working to stop young people from using drugs.

Research shows that teenagers who abstain from drugs are unlikely to start using them later in life. So I have asked Congress to provide an additional \$23 million for high schools who want to develop and carry out drug testing programs. Random drug testing gives students a strong answer to the social pressure to try drugs. It helps schools identify those using drugs so they can intervene with counseling and treatment before experiments turn into addictions.

We've seen the positive results of drug testing across the country. Just 2 years after Hunterdon Central Regional High School in

New Jersey began its testing program, drug use had declined significantly throughout the school. Hunterdon's principal described the program's effect this way: "We have never seen a prevention curriculum that affected the numbers this substantially. We finally had a tool that was making a large difference."

As we reduce demand for drugs, we're also preventing drug supplies from entering our country. Our military and law enforcement personnel are targeting the world's most dangerous drug trafficking networks. We are dismantling these organizations and putting their leaders in jail. And by working with governments across our hemisphere, we are drying up the world's supply of illegal drugs at its source.

Finally, we are taking steps to help those who have fallen into the destructive cycle of addiction. Drug dependence undermines productivity as well as moral conviction and devastates millions of families each year. Some addicts recognize their problem and want to change but cannot afford access to professional care. To help men and women like these, I launched an initiative called Access to Recovery. This program will help thousands of Americans get the treatment they need. And because I know a good way to change a person's behavior is to change their heart, faith-based treatment programs will always be an option. Congress has provided \$100 million for this lifesaving program, and this year, I have asked it to double that amount.

The progress reported in this year's Drug Control Strategy is encouraging. Our goals are ambitious, and we have seen they can be achieved. Now we will build on the improvement of the past 2 years, and we will continue working toward a society in which all citizens can lead a life of independence and purpose, free from the devastating influence of drugs.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:30 a.m. on February 27 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Lisa Brady, principal, Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Flemington, NJ. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti

February 29, 2004

President Aristide resigned. He has left his country. The Constitution of Haiti is working. There is an interim President, as per the Constitution, in place.

I have ordered the deployment of marines, as the leading element of an interim international force, to help bring order and stability to Haiti. I have done so in working with the international community.

This Government believes it essential that Haiti have a hopeful future. This is the beginning of a new chapter in the country's history. I would urge the people of Haiti to reject violence, to give this break from the past a chance to work. And the United States is prepared to help.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Statement Calling for Congressional Action on Foreign Sales Corporations/Extraterritorial Income Legislation

March 1, 2004

I urge Congress to take up and pass FSC/ETI legislation that reforms the Tax Code, removes the underlying reason for the tariffs that have been imposed today on American exports, and further advances the competitiveness of American manufacturers and job creators. Over the past 3 years, my administration has worked with Congress to further increase the ability of American companies

to succeed in the worldwide economy, laying the foundation for increased growth and job creation. If we don't act to replace the current FSC/ETI provisions in the Tax Code, the tariffs that have been imposed today will, over the next year, impose an increasing burden on American exporters, their workers, and the overall economy. To support the continued strengthening of our economy and to create more jobs, the Congress should act now to end the threat of these tariffs and promote the competitiveness of American manufacturers and other job-creating sectors of the U.S. economy.

Proclamation 7758—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

March 1, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2462(a)(1)), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

2. Section 502(b)(1)(C) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(1)(C)) specifies that European Union member states may not be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP.

3. Section 502(e) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that the President shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP if the President determines that such country has become a "high income" country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

4. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Act, and having due regard for the factors set forth in section 501 of the Act and taking into account the factors set forth